26th March 1954]

The Hon. Dr. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I have no information but I shall look into it."

Representation from East India Distilleries and Sugar Factories Sugarcane Growers' Association, Nellikuppam, about the fixing of fair prices for sugarcane.

* 411 *Q.*—Sri S. RAMALINGAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government received any representation on 19th December 1953 from the East India Distilleries and Sugar Factories Sugarcane Growers' Association, Nellikuppam, requesting that a fair price should be fixed to sugarcane growers and final accounts should not be settled to ryots for the year 1952–53 before the sugar sales accounts of the factory for the year 1952–53 are checked by an impartial committee consisting of the representatives of the Association, sugar mills and the Government; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) The representation was received from the Association under date 19th December 1953, but several were received from it in the course of September-December 1953.

" (*b*) The Director of Agriculture has reported that the additional price determined under Sisma formula was Rs. 5–1–1 per ton (besides the basic minimum price of Rs. 35–11–8) for the Nellikuppam factory area. The appointment of a committee as suggested by the Association was considered unnecessary, in view of the fact that the price fixed can be discussed at the meetings of the Sugarcane Advisory Committee. The Sisma formula is not a statutory formula fixed by the Government of India or by the Madras Government, but one agreed to mutually by the Factory and the growers."

Mr. SPEAKER :—" There are still a number of questions to be answered. After question-hour the Education Demand is coming up for discussion and a large number of hon. Members want to participate in the discussion. I do not want that their time should be taken up by extending the question-hour."

Sri K. VINAYAKAM :—" This question of fixing prices under the Sisma formula is causing a lot of headache to sugarcane growers. In view of the importance of the subject, I request the Chair to be kind enough to allow a half-hour debate on it."

Mr. SPEAKER :—" If the hon. Member wants the question to be taken up to-morrow, I have no objection. Mr. Ramalingam wants it to be taken up to-morrow."

Sri K. VINAYAKAM :—" Either it should be taken up to-morrow or half-hour debate should be allowed."

Mr. SPEAKER :—" I will take up the question for supplementaries to-morrow."